

To: DeBerry, Drue[drue_deberry@fws.gov]
Cc: Laura Archuleta[laura_archuleta@fws.gov]; Maria Boroja[maria_boroja@fws.gov]; John_Wegrzyn@fws.gov[John_Wegrzyn@fws.gov]
From: Harrison, Melissa
Sent: Wed 8/19/2015 12:51:56 PM
Subject: Re: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Thanks! I will work on making this happen today.

Melissa Harrison
Press Secretary
EPA
Office: (202) 564-8421
Mobile: (202) 697-0208
Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

On Aug 18, 2015, at 3:01 PM, DeBerry, Drue <drue_deberry@fws.gov> wrote:

Melissa,
For Region 6, I recommend the folks cc'd as contacts.

John Wegrzyn and Maria Boroja are the Regional Office Contacts.

Laura Archuleta and I are the contacts for the Colorado Ecological Services Office.

Drue DeBerry
Acting Colorado Field Supervisor until 10/17/15
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Colorado Ecological Services Field Office
134 Union Blvd., Suite 670
Lakewood, Colorado 80228
Office: 303 236-4774
Cell: 703-472-7777
drue_deberry@fws.gov

On 10/18/15 I resume as:
Sage-Grouse Energy Coordinator
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
134 Union Blvd.
Lakewood, CO 80228
(303) 236-4264

On Thu, Aug 13, 2015 at 9:20 AM, Harrison, Melissa <Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov> wrote:

Totally doable! I've cc'd Danny Hart. If you tell him who exactly who you would like listed, he will make it happen. Thanks!

Melissa Harrison
Press Secretary
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Office: (202) 564-8421
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Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

On Aug 13, 2015, at 9:08 AM, Will Meeks <Will_Meeks@fws.gov> wrote:

Melissa,

If that's an option perhaps we should. Noreen Walsh (our Regional Director) expressed an interest to note our involvement and that may be the appropriate outlet. Thoughts?

Will Meeks

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6

Acting ARD External Affairs (through September 2015)

303-236-4510 (w)

720-541-0310 (c)

From: Harrison, Melissa [<mailto:Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov>]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 8:57 PM
To: Gavin Shire
Cc: Ivy Allen; Michael Thabault; Maria Boroja; Will Meeks; Drue DeBerry
Subject: Re: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Fwiw. I was fine with the original. I believe you are providing technical assistance. We have a website we are updating. If you'd like, we could add contact info for you guys. Just let me know what you would like. Thanks!

Melissa Harrison

Press Secretary

EPA

Office: (202) 564-8421

Mobile: (202) 697-0208

Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

On Aug 12, 2015, at 10:01 AM, Gavin Shire <gavin_shire@fws.gov> wrote:

So are we not already providing assistance? This change would make it seem not.

G

Gavin G. Shire

Chief of Public Affairs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MS: EA

5275 Leesburg Pike

Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

Tel: 703-358-2649

Cell: 703-346-9123

gavin_shire@fws.gov

From: Ivy Allen [mailto:ivy_allen@fws.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 11:57 AM

To: Michael Thabault; Maria Boroja; Will Meeks

Cc: Drue DeBerry; Gavin Shire; Harrison.Melissa@epa.gov

Subject: RE: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Hi Mike and Maria,

Thank you for the update and we will edit the statement as suggested. Should we be planning for any webpages that have limited information on them about wildlife with a redirect to EPA for additional information? There could also be a updated feed for wildlife specific information on the page? The papers are picking up and running with wildlife information pretty heavily as of yesterday. There is very little contact or agency information out there for the public to read besides what the media is printing. I can't help but think there should be a source the public can go to that is not a media outlet.

*Ivy Allen | Tribal Communication Specialist | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Mountain-Prairie Region
| 134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80228 | Ivy_Allen@fws.gov | 303-236-4575*

From: Michael Thabault [mailto:michael_thabault@fws.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, August 12, 2015 9:44 AM
To: Boroja, Maria; Ivy Allen
Cc: Drue DeBerry
Subject: Re: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Ivy pls see Maria's edits.

Michael Thabault

Assistant Regional Director

Ecological Services

Mountain Prairie Region

On Aug 11, 2015, at 3:56 PM, Boroja, Maria <maria_boroja@fws.gov> wrote:

FYI - I would argue that these changes are accurate and necessary.

On the Record

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to provide technical assistance to EPA to minimize the impact of the waste water release and ensure all necessary measures are taken to safeguard federally protected species and their habitats.

Background

At this time, the federally protected species at greatest risk are the Colorado Pike Minnow, Razorback sucker, and Flannel Mouth Sucker in the San Juan River, at the confluence with the Animas River. Critical habitat is designated for the Pike minnow and Razorback sucker at the confluence. To date, we have no reports of fish kill. Suitable riparian habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse, southwestern willow flycatcher and the yellow-billed cuckoo may also exist along the Animas and San Juan Rivers.

On Tue, Aug 11, 2015 at 3:37 PM, Michael Thabault
<michael_thabault@fws.gov> wrote:

Is this OK? Seems fine.

Michael Thabault

Assistant Regional Director

Ecological Services

Mountain Prairie Region

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ivy Allen <ivy_allen@fws.gov>

Date: August 11, 2015 at 2:48:50 PM MDT

To: Will Meeks <will_meeks@fws.gov>, Michael Thabault
<michael_thabault@fws.gov>

**Subject: REVIEW NEEDED: Gold King Mine Release Spill
Update**

Hello Will and Mike,

To be prepared for FWS to comment to the public or media, at the regional and HQ levels, does the statement below meet your approvals? Please provide any comments or feedback. Thank you.

On the Record

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing technical assistance to EPA to minimize the impact of the waste water release and ensure all necessary measures are taken to safeguard federally protected species and their habitats.

Background

At this time, the federally protected species at greatest risk are the Colorado Pike Minnow, Razorback sucker, and Flannel Mouth Sucker in the San Juan River, at the confluence with the Animas River. Critical habitat is designated for the Pike minnow and Razorback sucker at the confluence. To date, we have no reports of fish kill. Suitable riparian habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse may also exist along the Animas River.

Ivy Allen | Tribal Communication Specialist | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Mountain-Prairie Region | 134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80228 | Ivy_Allen@fws.gov | 303-236-4575

From: Gavin Shire [mailto:gavin_shire@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 2:37 PM
To: Ivy Allen; betsy_hildebrandt@fws.gov; Jessica Kershaw
Subject: RE: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

We should have an if-asked statement on this. Doesn't need to be anything fancy, something along the lines of

On the Record

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is providing technical assistance to EPA to minimize the impact of the waste water release and ensure all necessary measures are taken to safeguard federally protected species and their habitats.

Background

At this time, the federally protected species at greatest risk are the Colorado Pike Minnow, Razorback sucker, and Flannel Mouth Sucker in the San Juan River, at the confluence with the Animas River. Critical habitat is designated for the Pike minnow and Razorback sucker at the confluence. To date, we have no reports of fish kill. Suitable riparian habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse may also exist along the Animas River.

Thoughts?

G

Gavin G. Shire

Chief of Public Affairs

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

MS: EA

5275 Leesburg Pike

Falls Church, VA 22041-3803

Tel: 703-358-2649

Cell: 703-346-9123

gavin_shire@fws.gov

From: Ivy Allen [mailto:ivy_allen@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 2:52 PM
To: Gavin Shire
Subject: FW: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

FYI. . .

Ivy Allen | Tribal Communication Specialist | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Mountain-Prairie Region | 134 Union Blvd., Lakewood, CO 80228 | Ivy_Allen@fws.gov | 303-236-4575

From: Will Meeks [mailto:Will_Meeks@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:36 PM
To: FW6 RO EA
Subject: FW: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Will Meeks

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 6

Acting ARD External Affairs (through September 2015)

303-236-4510 (w)

720-541-0310 (c)

From: Noreen Walsh [mailto:noreen_walsh@fws.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, August 11, 2015 12:15 PM
To: Gary Frazer; Betsy Hildebrandt; Jim Kurth; Steve Guertin; Robert Dreher; Dan Ashe
Cc: Michael Thabault; Drue DeBerry; Matt Hogan; Will Meeks
Subject: Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Gold King Mine Release Spill Update

Background/Timeline:

August 5, while investigating the Gold King Mine in Colorado, the EPA and State Division of Reclamation Mining and Safety triggered a release of mine wastewater into Cement Creek. On

August 7, the spill was estimated at one million gallons.

August 8, the release from the Gold King mine reached the San Juan River.

August 10, Region 8 increased the estimate to approximately three million gallons of mine waste water released. The primary environmental concern is the pulse of contaminated water containing sediment and metals flowing as an orange-colored discharge downstream through Durango, Colorado, and into New Mexico and Utah.

August 12, FWS staff from R6, R2, and HQ will hold a coordinating call to discuss the spill and roles and responsibilities.

Potential Impacts:

The state of Colorado and EPA's Office of Spill Response are evaluating the release and potential impacts of the acid mine drainage in Cement Creek and the Animas and San Juan Rivers.

We are providing technical assistance to EPA, and the state and our staffs from Colorado Ecological Services and Upper Colorado River Recovery Programs are coordinating with Region 2's San Juan River Recovery Program to ensure all necessary measures are taken to protect trust resources potentially impacted by the release.

Our national spills coordinator is working with EPA and other affected bureaus to minimize the impact of the release.

The Bureau of Reclamation is planning to increase flows in the San Juan River over the coming days to help dilute the impacts of the spill on aquatic species. We will continue to provide technical assistance and support as necessary.

At this time, the greatest potential trust species impact is to the Colorado Pike Minnow, Razorback sucker, and Flannel Mouth Sucker in the San Juan River, at the confluence with the Animas River. Critical habitat is designated for the Pike minnow and Razorback sucker at the confluence. To date, we have no reports of fish kill. Colorado Parks & Wildlife placed fish in cages in the Animas River near Durango on August 6. Of 108 fish, one has

died. Suitable riparian habitat for the New Mexico Meadow Jumping Mouse may also exist along the Animas River.

We will provide another update as the situation warrants. Please don't hesitate to call if you have questions. ES has the lead; Mike Thabault and Drue DeBerry are our best sources for any questions you have. An interesting blog on this spill:

<http://blog.yourwatercolorado.org/2015/08/10/the-orange-animas/>

Noreen Walsh

Regional Director

Mountain-Prairie Region

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service

303 236 7920

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Maria T. Boroja

Regional Environmental Contaminants Coordinator

Chief Energy, Water & Climate Branch

Mountain-Prairie Region

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

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